

GOLETA WATER DISTRICT RESPONSE  
FROM GENERAL MANAGER

JUNE 1, 2006 REPORT OF 2005-2006 SANTA BARBARA CIVIL GRAND JURY  
*WATER AND CEMETARY DISTRICTS*

Finding 1

With regard to Goleta Water District, we disagree. The Board and General Manager have received training in all the areas specifically mentioned in the accompanying Recommendation Nos. 1 and 2. The Grand Jury report itself mentions the training the Board and General Manager have received. See page 14 and Appendix B questions 12 and 13.

Finding 2

We agree.

Finding 5

There are no specifics that pertain to Goleta Water District. Without specifics, we must disagree. See response to accompanying Recommendation No. 5.

Finding 8

With regard to Goleta Water District, we disagree that we have resisted consolidation. The Grand Jury report itself mentions the Goleta Water District efforts to actually initiate consolidation. See Report at page 16, and Appendix B question nos. 24, 25a, 25b. Further, there are no adjacent water districts with which we could consolidate. See Report at Appendix B question nos. 23b and 25a.

Recommendation 1

This recommendation has been implemented. As recommended, the Board has received training in all the areas that are specifically mentioned in the recommendation. The Grand Jury report itself mentions the training the Board has received. See Report at page 14, and Appendix B question 12. Per the recommendation, the Board has received training specific to AB 1234 (ethics) and the Brown Act. Training is regarded as important to the Board. See Report at Appendix B question nos. 14, 14a, 14b.

## Recommendation 2

This recommendation has been implemented. As recommended, the General Manager has received training in all the areas that are specifically mentioned in the recommendation. Grand Jury report itself mentions the training the General Manager has received. See Report at Appendix B question nos. 13, 13a, 13b, 13c, and 13d. Per the recommendation the General Manager has received training specific to AB 1234 (ethics) and the Brown Act. Training is regarded as important not just for the General Manager, but for all staff. The Grand Jury Report documents only a few of the many subjects in which training has been actually received.

## Recommendation 4

This recommendation has been implemented. Public noticing of board meetings exceeds Brown Act requirements. As recommended, we have added to our agendas an additional statement on time and place of noticing.

## Recommendation 5

This recommendation has been implemented. As recommended the Goleta Water District has had a fax number since the 1980's. We have had e-mail since the 1990's. The Grand Jury report itself mentions that the District has e-mail addresses in Appendix B question 34. We have always checked our e-mail daily; even more often than that.

## Recommendation 6

This recommendation has been implemented. As recommended, the Goleta Water District has written policies on complaints, expenditures, board action, employment, and record retention. The Grand Jury report itself mentions water district's in particular as having written policies. See Report at page 12 and Appendix B question nos. 1 and 1b. The Grand Jury was previously provided a one-page single-spaced list of policies and procedures. Appendix B question 1a should have listed these policies, or made mention of the numerous number of policies.

## Recommendation 7

This recommendation has been implemented. Per the recommendation, the following are done: Minutes are taken. The board members, staff, and counsel and noted by name. For each subject discussed there is a description of the item and the action taken. The facts upon which the action is based are contained in written agenda memos, which are part of the record. If findings are required to be made, then these are recorded in the minutes. Resolutions and Ordinances, a method by which the board takes action, contain within them the justification for the facts upon which the action is based. Often a document that is the subject of an action, such as an EIR, is in itself a factual document containing the factual basis for action. For items that cannot be acted upon, if the board discusses the issues that must be resolved before action can be taken and the person to whom it is

assigned, than that is recorded in the minutes. The Goleta Water District written policy is to follow the guidelines of Roberts Rules of Order. We believe that this widely accepted procedure is a good model to follow.

#### Recommendation 8

This recommendation has been implemented. As recommended the CPA informs the district annually during the audit review of changes in the law. The district general counsel monitors changes in the law and other requirements, and informs the district of changes when it is obvious that they have not received the information through notices from water industry sources, or training. District special counsel informs the district of changes in the law and other requirements that pertain to special counsel areas of expertise.

The District is a member and active participant in the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and in ACWA-JPIA (Joint Powers Insurance Authority). Both are organizations comprised of several hundred water purveyors in the State of California. These are very effective resources that provide information and training on subjects relevant to water District operations. In addition, ACWA monitors and informs members of pending legislation as it works its way through the political process. This allows the District to be prepared for new laws and changed requirements before they become effective, and to have a voice in the drafting of new regulations.

#### Recommendation 9

This recommendation has been implemented. Written staff reports are prepared for all significant action items. As recommended these agenda memos contain the facts on which to base a reasonable conclusion that the request should be granted. Resolutions and Ordinances, a method by which the board takes action, contain within them the justification for the facts upon which the action is based. Often a document that is the subject of an action, such as an EIR, is in itself a factual document containing the factual basis for action.